

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5, 11 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and amend the claims as follows.

--1(Currently amended). A method for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data from a database table, wherein the database includes a plurality of networked partitions for storing different portions of said database table based on a partitioning schema, each partition contained within a corresponding network processing node and associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information indicating data organization in said database, and wherein a plurality of agent modules of at least one of said network processing nodes are each associated with a corresponding networked partition to establish a physical connection with, execute said query against and retrieve said desired data from that networked partition, the method comprising:

(a) providing a client query for said database at a network processing node in accordance with a user request to retrieve said desired data and retrieving information within said database catalog information associated with said database table containing said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

(b) analyzing the contents of the client query and the retrieved database catalog information to determine a specific partition from among said plurality of networked partitions containing the database table portion with the desired data satisfying said client query and identifying a partition identifier associated with the specific partition; and

(c) executing the client query against said specific partition, ~~whereby said desired data is~~ retrieved by determining said associated agent module for said specific partition based on said

partition identifier and directing said determined agent module to execute said client query against, and retrieve said desired data satisfying said client query from, said specific partition.

2(Previously presented). The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further includes:

(a.1) storing the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

3(Previously presented). The method of claim 2, wherein step (a.1) further includes:

(a.1.1) building a subset of the database catalog; and

(a.1.2) storing the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

4(Original). The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further includes:

(b.1) resolving the partition identifier.

5(Canceled).

6(Currently amended). The method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein step (c) further includes:

~~(e.2)~~(c.1) forwarding the retrieved data to a client application requesting table data.

7(Currently amended). A database management system for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data from a database table, wherein the database includes a plurality of networked partitions for storing different portions of said database table based on a partitioning schema, each partition contained within a corresponding network processing node

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and associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information indicating data organization in said database, the system comprising:

a data processing system of at least one of said network processing nodes to retrieve desired data from said database table, each said data processing system including:

a client module to provide a client query for said database in accordance with a user request to retrieve said desired data;

a schema-lookup module to retrieve information within said database catalog information associated with said database table containing said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

a partition-router module to analyze the contents of the client query and the retrieved database catalog information to determine a specific partition from among said plurality of networked partitions containing the database table portion with the desired data satisfying said client query and to identify a partition identifier associated with the specific partition; and

a data-manager module to execute the client query against said specific partition; ~~whereby said desired data is retrieved and including:~~

a plurality of agent modules each associated with a corresponding networked partition to establish a physical connection with, execute said client query against and retrieve said desired data from that networked partition; and

a query module to determine said associated agent module for said specific partition based on said partition identifier and to direct said determined agent module to retrieve said desired data satisfying said client query from said specific partition.

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8(Previously presented). The system of claim 7, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a catalog-cache module to store the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

9(Original). The system of claim 8, wherein the catalog-cache module includes:

a build-cache module to build a subset of the database catalog; and

a store-cache module to store the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

10(Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a connection module to resolve the partition identifier.

11(Canceled).

12(Currently amended). The system of claim [[11]] 7, wherein the data-manager module further includes:

a client-coordinator module to forward the retrieved data to a ~~client application~~ said client module requesting table data.

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13(Currently amended). A program product apparatus having a computer readable medium with computer program logic recorded thereon for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data from a database table, wherein the database includes a plurality of networked partitions for storing different portions of said database table based on a partitioning schema, each partition contained within a corresponding network processing node and associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information indicating data organization in said database, said program product apparatus comprising:

a client module for at least one of said network processing nodes to provide a client query for said database in accordance with a user request to retrieve said desired data;

a schema-lookup module for said at least one network processing node to retrieve information within said database catalog information associated with said database table containing said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

a partition-router module for said at least one network processing node to analyze the contents of the client query and the retrieved database catalog information to determine a specific partition from among said plurality of networked partitions containing the database table portion with the desired data satisfying said client query and to identify a partition identifier associated with the specific partition; and

a data-manager module to execute the client query against said specific partition; ~~whereby said desired data is retrieved~~ and including:

a plurality of agent modules each associated with a corresponding networked partition to establish a physical connection with, execute said client query against and retrieve said desired data from that networked partition; and

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a query module to determine said associated agent module for said specific partition based on said partition identifier and to direct said determined agent module to retrieve said desired data satisfying said client query from said specific partition.

14(Previously presented). The program product of claim 13, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a catalog-cache module to store the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

15(Original). The program product of claim 14, wherein the catalog-cache module includes:

a build-cache module to build a subset of the database catalog; and

a store-cache module to store the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

16(Original). The program product of claim 13, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a connection module to resolve the partition identifier.

17(Canceled).

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18(Currently amended). The program product of claim [[17]] 13, wherein the data-manager module further includes:

a client-coordinator module to forward the retrieved data to ~~a client application~~ said client module requesting table data.--